

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

Proceedings of the Council.—During the time of the annual meeting at Santa Barbara, the Council held four meetings, the 72nd, 73rd, 74th, and 75th. . . .

Modoc and Lassen-Plumas County Medical Societies, which had been organized in March, were officially accepted in affiliation with the State Society. . . .

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County Societies: Important.—A number of matters directly affecting county societies and membership in them and in the State Society, the privileges of medical defense, etc., were acted upon by the House of Delegates and referred to the county units for action. Each county unit should take these up as soon as possible and act upon them. The only legislation by the House of Delegates which was not unanimous was the endorsement of the proposed agreement in regard to the work under the industrial accident law; there were about ten opposing votes on this measure, but it was adopted and referred to the county units for their ratification. Four county societies have already, at the time of writing, met and rescinded resolutions previously passed, and have endorsed the action of the House of Delegates. All county units should act upon these various matters (they will be found in the Minutes of the House of Delegates, published in this issue of the JOURNAL) as soon as possible, that there may be no delay in knowing just where we stand on all of these points. More than ever is it clear that the House of Delegates' plan is a good one; a body of from 90 to 100 men, representing the whole state, can transact the business of the Society more satisfactorily than could the whole mass of the Society. A surprisingly large amount of work was done in a short time and without hitch or friction of any sort.

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Surgeon-General's Library.—At the Santa Barbara meeting a protest was read, calling attention to an amendment to the Army appropriation bill, which amendment would take the library of the Surgeon-General away from its present quarters and combine it with the Congressional Library and would have almost put a stop to the wonderfully good work that is being done by the machinery provided in the Surgeon-General's Library. The Secretary was instructed to take up this matter by telegram with our representatives in Washington, and it is with pleasure that the information contained in the following telegram is now placed before our readers:

"Washington, D. C., May 5, 1914.

"Army bill now law. Senate amendment defeated. Medical library continues its former status.

"(Signed) Julius Kahn."

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Scientific Work.—It is gratifying to note the steady improvement in the quality of the papers presented at the annual meetings of the Society. At the Santa Barbara meeting of this year, the general average of the papers was very high and the range of subjects presented made an exceedingly attractive and interesting program. The tuberculosis society is to be congratulated upon the activity

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Preliminary hearing into the case involving Dr. John M. Robinson, 37-year-old physician-socialite, charged with criminal abortion, will be heard today (Thursday) in Division 4 of the Municipal Court. Doctor Robinson was arrested last week in connection with the death of Mrs. Gladys Smith, 19-year-old former acrobatic dancer. Mrs. Smith died on April 19 at the General Hospital, allegedly from an illegal operation performed on her by Doctor Robinson." (Los Angeles *Eagle*, May 4, 1939.)

"Dr. Charles H. Wilson, chiropractor of 217 North Vermont Avenue, accused of causing the death of Mrs. Ursula Warner, 33-year-old Hermosa Beach housewife, by an illegal operation, was up before Municipal Judge C. A. Ballreich today on charges of murder and performing an illegal operation. The woman's husband, William F. Warner, testified that he took his wife to Doctor Wilson's office on April 21 and that she was closeted with the doctor for nearly an hour. When they returned home, he said, she became violently ill and was later removed to the Torrance Hospital. She died there three days later, he testified, despite the effort of five doctors called into consultation. . . ." (Los Angeles *Herald and Express*, May 9, 1939.)

"Convicted late last night of a charge of performing an unlawful operation, Dr. O. A. Welsh, 50-year-old Ventura surgeon, today is at liberty under \$2,500 bond, pending pronouncement of sentence on Tuesday. The jury returned its verdict at approximately 11:25 p. m., finding the doctor guilty of the operation charge, but acquitting him of a morals count. Doctor Welsh was indicted by the Ventura County Grand Jury on January 23. . . . The case closed with a flourish yesterday morning when the District Attorney called to the stand two young Santa Barbara mothers, both of whom testified their husbands had paid Doctor Welsh \$50 to perform operations to prevent them from having additional children. . . . Doctor Welsh, former World War army surgeon, has practiced in Ventura for the past nine years." (Ventura *Star-Free Press*, May 5, 1939.)

"The Municipal Retirement Board yesterday rejected a plan for drugless practitioners to participate in the city workers health service system. Members of the profession had objected to details of the plan and its adoption by directors of the health service system and taken their case to court. . . ." (San Francisco *Examiner*, May 10, 1939.)

"Doctor Frederick Waitzfeld (Waitzfelder) physician and surgeon, 3950 West Sixth Street, yesterday was granted one year probation on two counts of violation of the state narcotics act by Municipal Judge Harold B. Landreth, who suspended a sentence of 180 days on each count. Judge Landreth made a provision of the probation that the physician refrain from administering or prescribing narcotics during his probation. The court pointed out Doctor Waitzfeld (Waitzfelder) had technically violated the act

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.